

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 17-19. Please amend claims 36, 39, 40, 42, 49, and 50.
This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of the claims in this application.

1.-23. (Canceled)

24. (Previously presented) A method for inducing the formation of endogenous tissue at a site in need of endogenous tissue growth in a warm-blooded vertebrate, the method comprising the step of implanting a graft composition comprising an extracellular matrix in an amount effective to induce endogenous tissue growth at the site in need of the tissue growth wherein the matrix comprises gelled liver basement membrane tissue of a warm-blooded vertebrate and wherein the liver basement membrane is substantially free of endogenous cells associated with said liver basement membrane.

25. (Previously presented) The method of claim 24 wherein the graft composition is implanted surgically.

26. (Previously presented) The method of claim 24 wherein the gelled liver basement membrane tissue is seeded with exogenous cells prior to implantation of the graft composition into the warm-blooded vertebrate.

27. (Previously presented) The method of claim 24, wherein the gelled liver basement membrane tissue is prepared by providing a solution of fluidized liver basement membrane tissue, adding nutrients, and gelling the solution by adjusting the pH of the solution to about 6.0 to about 7.4.

28.-34. (Canceled)

35. (Previously presented) The method of claim 24 wherein the graft composition is implanted in the form of a wound dressing.

36. (Currently amended) The method of claim 24 wherein the liver basement membrane is rendered substantially free of endogenous cells by further

comprising the step of removing the cells by treating the liver basement membrane with a cell dissociation solution selected from the group consisting of a chaotropic agent, an enzyme, and a calcium-chelating agent.

37. (Previously presented) The method of claim 24 wherein the graft composition further comprises a growth factor.

38. (Previously presented) The method of claim 37 wherein the growth factor is selected from the group consisting of fibroblast growth factor, epidermal growth factor, platelet derived growth factor, transforming growth factor, and hepatocyte growth factor.

39. (Currently amended) The method of claim 24, wherein prior to implantation further comprising the step of sterilizing the liver basement membrane is subjected to a sterilization step.

40. (Currently amended) The method of claim 39 wherein the sterilization step involves sterilization liver basement membrane is sterilized using a peracid.

41. (Previously presented) The method of claim 24 wherein the graft composition further comprises a component selected from the group consisting of a mineral, an amino acid, a sugar, a peptide, a protein, and a glycoprotein.

42. (Currently amended) A method for inducing the formation of endogenous tissue at a site in need of endogenous tissue growth in a warm-blooded vertebrate, the method comprising the step of administering a graft composition comprising an isolated extracellular matrix in an amount effective to induce endogenous tissue growth at the site in need of the tissue growth wherein the isolated matrix comprises gelled liver basement membrane tissue of a warm-blooded vertebrate; and

wherein the liver basement membrane is free of endogenous cells associated with said liver basement membrane.

43. (Previously presented) The method of claim 42 wherein the graft composition is administered surgically.

44. (Previously presented) The method of claim 42 wherein the gelled liver basement membrane tissue is seeded with exogenous cells prior to administration of the graft composition into the warm-blooded vertebrate.

45. (Previously presented) The method of claim 42 wherein the gelled liver basement membrane tissue is prepared by providing a solution of fluidized liver basement membrane tissue, adding nutrients, and gelling the solution by adjusting the pH of the solution to about 6.0 to about 7.4.

46. (Previously presented) The method of claim 42 wherein the graft composition is administered in the form of a wound dressing.

47. (Previously presented) The method of claim 42 wherein the graft composition further comprises a growth factor.

48. (Previously presented) The method of claim 47 wherein the growth factor is selected from the group consisting of fibroblast growth factor, epidermal growth factor, platelet derived growth factor, transforming growth factor, and hepatocyte growth factor.

49. (Currently amended) The method of claim 42, wherein prior to administration further comprising the step of sterilizing the liver basement membrane is subjected to a sterilization step.

50. (Currently amended) The method of claim 49 wherein the sterilization step involves sterilization liver basement membrane is sterilized using a peracid.

51. (Previously presented) The method of claim 42 wherein the graft composition further comprises a component selected from the group consisting of a mineral, an amino acid, a sugar, a peptide, a protein, and a glycoprotein.